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Bridging the Gap

City Council and staff are taking steps to balance our budget and ensure our long-term health

"Tough economic times" is the phrase that seems to follow us everywhere we go these days. You can't turn on the television, pass a newspaper stand, or listen to talk radio without being told about the unique and grim financial circumstance in which we are living.

For a while, Fremont held up well compared to cities in other areas of the State due in large part to the City's proactive budget strategies over the past several years. Maintaining a lean staff by holding open vacancies, implementing spending cuts, and aggressively pursuing retail development to diversify our sales tax base are examples of the disciplined actions taken by City staff and Council in prior years that are allowing

Continued on page 3

: State of the City Address

Fremont's mayor will present the annual State of the City Address at a luncheon hosted by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce on **Tuesday, March 31, from noon to 2 p.m.** at the Fremont Marriott Hotel. To purchase tickets, call the Chamber of Commerce at 795-2244 or visit Fremontbusiness.com.

Missed the luncheon? The City will rebroadcast the State of the City Address on Cable TV Channel 27, as well as provide a video stream through the City's website. Please note, the video stream will not be live and will be posted the following week on Fremont.gov.

For more information, call the City Manager's Office at 284-4000.

City Manager's Message



It's no secret that the struggling economy has affected all levels of government, including the City of Fremont. Like many cities in the State, we are faced with the challenges of declining revenues, continuing threats from the State to take more money from

redevelopment agencies, and a budget deficit that is expected to grow over the next couple of years.

Our current fiscal year's budgeted expenditures exceed revenues by \$10.7 million, while projections show that the City faces a budget gap of \$9.5 million in 2009/2010 even after exhausting all of the Budget Uncertainty Reserve. Several unknown factors could change this projection including, the exact sales tax revenue generated during the 2008 holiday season and the impact of the declining housing market on our property tax revenues.

Going forward with the information we do have on hand, it's important to make sure we balance the budget in a way that sustains the City not only for the next fiscal year, but for fiscal years to come. In doing so, we will employ a bridging strategy that requires the use of one-time funds while also reducing our operating expenses on an ongoing basis. While this strategy will affect our current service levels, the real danger lies in doing nothing. If we continue to conduct business as usual, without employing any changes, the City will face a projected budget gap of \$18.5 million in 2010/2011—an amount that cannot be filled with budget reserves alone.

These reductions may impact the essential services currently provided to the community including public safety, median landscaping, streets, and tree and park maintenance. The effects of these reductions, along with reductions made earlier this decade, continue to erode the City's ability to sustain the quality of life Fremont has come to expect. It is important to note, however, that City staff will continue to work diligently with the Mayor and City Council to lead the community through this tough time with the resources we do have.

As information continues to unfold at the local, State, and Federal levels, we will continue to monitor the financial impacts to Fremont and I will update you as I get substantive information.

Fred

Did You Know?

It's in Our Hands— Be Counted

Census 2010

Although Census 2010 will not occur until next year on April 1, 2010, the City, along with government agencies across the country, are working to spread the word about being counted. In Census 2000, the last time this count took place, Fremont ranked No. 2 for a city of our size with a response rate of 77 percent. This is compared to Alameda County at 72 percent, the State at 70 percent, and nationwide at 67 percent.



U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office (PIO)

Why is being counted important for Fremont?

It is estimated that for every person counted in the Census, the jurisdiction receives \$2,500 to \$3,000 in funding. This is particularly important for Fremont given our demographics and socio-economic changes in the last couple of decades. Nationwide, \$300 billion annually of government funding for critical community services is at stake, and the Census generates thousands of jobs across the country.

Be counted! Census questionnaires will be mailed to households in mid-March 2010. Be sure to fill them out and send them in. This will ensure that our city receives its share of government funding and Congressional seats.

City of Fremont

The City Council meets the first, second, and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Ave. Work sessions are held the third Tuesday of each month, times vary. Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27 or webcast online at Fremont.gov/CityHall/Webcasts.

City Council

Bob Wasserman, Mayor
Anu Natarajan, Vice Mayor
Bob Wieckowski, Bill Harrison, Suzanne Lee Chan

City Manager

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Fremont City News

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Bridging the Gap *From page 1*

us to weather this storm in a proactive way. However, economic conditions have drastically changed over the past few months. The fact is that revenues from the property transfer tax have declined, businesses are going out of business or cutting production, sales tax revenues continue to fall, and consumer confidence has all but dwindled away. As a result of these unfortunate realities, the City has a projected budget gap of \$10.7 million for the remainder of this fiscal year. The outlook worsens as we move into Fiscal Year 2009/2010 (July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010) with a projected budget gap of \$13.1 million, and even worse in FY 2010/2011 as we face a gap of \$18.5 million.

Our budget uncertainty reserve, which would normally be used to offset a minor budget gap, consists of only \$11.2 million and will be exhausted by June 2010. Consequently, the City will be left with a shortfall of \$9.5 million, which would grow to \$28 million in FY 2010/2011. This puts us in a tough situation; one in which we have to consider significant cost cutting and cost saving strategies. Unfortunately, it is likely that services provided to the public will be impacted as city costs are reduced.

For starters, the City will suspend its annual \$1 million transfer to the Capital Improvement Program for two years. This is an important funding source for many of the City's capital projects and the maintenance of existing infrastructure. In addition, the City will have to reduce ongoing expenditures by \$8.5 million annually. We expect to rely on a small percentage of the City's reserves to fill the remaining gap, but remain cautious about using this one-time resource while the ultimate impact of the recession is unknown.



Thanks to Fremont voters who passed Measure R in 2002, Centerville's new fire station opened in January. The station is 13,000 square feet with four apparatus bays (for the fire engines) and was completed under budget.

Activities with Fremont Ballpark to Cease

On February 24, 2009, the Oakland A's officially announced they would cease efforts to relocate their franchise to the City of Fremont.

In a letter to the Fremont City Council, A's owner/managing partner Lew Wolff indicated that due to opposition to his Ballpark Project proposal, "it became increasingly clear that our ballpark project faced significant delays ahead and I could not, in good conscience, continue to lead our team down this path." As such, Mr. Wolff stated, "I have concluded that further consideration of the A's relocating to Fremont must cease."

At this time, all planning and environmental impact review activities on the project have stopped. For additional information and a brief narrative history of the A's proposal, including a copy of Mr. Wolff's February 24 letter, visit Fremont.gov/Community/BallparkVillage. No future public meetings on this topic are scheduled.

Our Community

'Always Dream' PlayPark to be Built in Fremont's Central Park

A new, one-of-a kind playground will break ground in Central Park this spring. All children, including those with a range of physical, developmental, or sensory disabilities, will enjoy the special design of the structures, activities, and playground environment. This is thanks to the Always Dream Foundation, a foundation created in 1996 by Olympic Gold Medalist, and Fremont native, Kristi Yamaguchi.

The Always Dream Foundation is the expression of Kristi's desire to create an organization whose sole purpose is to inspire and embrace the hopes and dreams of children. Through the generosity of this foundation, as well as community donors such as Fremont Bank, the 'Always Dream' PlayPark will become a reality. No General Fund dollars will be used to build the playground, which will be located along Stevenson Boulevard near the tennis courts.



Bay Street Transformation

Construction to Begin in April

Over the past several years, a very active and engaged community of business and property owners along Bay Street participated in a planning effort to transform the area. A key component was the revitalization of Bay Street in the Irvington District. The Bay Street Streetscape Project will install new street improvements on Bay Street between Fremont Boulevard and Chapel, Trimboli, and Papazian ways. The street improvements include utility undergrounding, installation of new lighting, landscaping, street furniture, and wider sidewalks to encourage outdoor uses as well as a new parking lot—all contributing to a pedestrian safe and friendly shopping and dining experience.

The City applied for and received a \$1.6 million grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which helped to move the project forward. However, numerous challenges arose, which potentially could have jeopardized the delivery of the project. Luckily, we overcame these challenges:

- The City had to obtain a special California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance, which took extra months out of the already tight schedule to get approved.
- The City needed to acquire property rights from 31 owners within a compressed time period.
- MTC shortened the time frame to obtain all the necessary approvals to certify the project.

Thanks to the great work by staff in several departments, we look forward to beginning construction next month.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The Family Resource Center's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is once again in session. Low-income Fremont and Tri-City families are eligible to have their tax returns prepared free by trained volunteers, most of whom are bilingual, who are serving as tax preparers, translators, screeners, coaches, and trainers. Last year, the program served 1,150 families and helped clients bring home \$551,751 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), \$220,848 in Child Tax Credits, and \$145,219 in State refunds. Total federal refunds issued was \$1,200,141!

As part of a countywide effort called "Earn it! Keep it! Save it!", this program aims to improve the financial independence of low-income families in our community and increase the number of Alameda County families who claim the EITC. The program is a collaborative effort of over



Federal Economic Stimulus Dollars Will Flow to Fremont

How can Fremont benefit from Federal Economic Stimulus funds? Since November, City staff has actively submitted project ideas to multiple agencies and interest groups. These project ideas were prepared to show need to the various groups that lobbied for the passage of the stimulus bill. Please note that this list does not represent grant applications and none of these projects are specifically included in the final legislation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Funds from the Act will be dispersed into categories such as Energy, Infrastructure (roads, transit, water, etc.), Housing, and Public Safety. Each category will be administered separately with specific eligibility rules and application requirements. Fremont will likely qualify to compete for funds under several, but not all, categories and will formally submit project applications once procedures and local dollar amounts are established.

The most defined category at this point is the roads funding portion of the Infrastructure category administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The City of Fremont has applied to receive a one-time formula based allocation of \$4 million to \$5 million dollars for street pavement overlays this year. This funding is greatly needed to reduce our ongoing shortfall of street maintenance funding. Visit the City's website at Fremont.gov for a list of proposed stimulus projects for Fremont.

70 community partners. The United Way of the Bay Area and the Internal Revenue Service are coordinating and overall funding partners. In addition, Citibank, East Bay Community Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, and Y& H Soda Foundation support our VITA campaign.

Who is eligible for VITA tax assistance? Anyone who earned less than \$45,000 in 2008 is eligible to receive these free tax preparation services. VITA services are available through April 15 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Service is on a walk-in, first come, first-serve basis at the Family Resource Center, located at 39155 Liberty Street, Caribbean Room in Building EFGH. Child care services are available on site for VITA clients at no cost.

For more information, contact VITA Coordinator Carolyn Robertson at vita@fremont.gov or 574-2020.



Support our Community While Saving Money

The City of Fremont offers free advertising for Fremont businesses through our online coupon program at www.ShopFremont.biz.

Support our community while saving money. Print the coupons and use them to explore new places to shop, dine, and play in Fremont!

Our Community



Save the Date: Tuesday, Aug. 4

National Night Out Strengthens Neighborhood Spirit, Unity

Celebrate National Night Out with your Fremont neighbors and communities across the nation on **Tuesday, Aug. 4**. Consider hosting a party in your neighborhood to raise crime prevention awareness and develop relationships with representatives from Police, Fire and other City departments. To receive a visit from our staff, be sure to register your party. We hope to surpass last year's total of 143 block parties throughout Fremont.

Look for more details in the summer issue of City News on how to participate.

Day Camps for School Holidays, Spring Break, and Summertime

Be it a school holiday that takes you by surprise or the school breaks you know are coming, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has you covered! The school calendar is our guide for when you and your children will be looking for activities.

This Spring Break, April 13–17, we have 15 camps — something for everyone ages 5 to 16. We offer Half Day & Full Day Camps throughout the city. New camps include 'Dreams & Fairytales,' 'Cartooning and the Cutting Edge,' and 'Daring and Dangerous.'

Rest assured, we do background checks, have our entire staff finger printed

The readers of Bay Area Parent Magazine voted our summer camps 'The Best of the Best Summer Camps.'

and hold trainings specifically to instruct our staff to deliver safe, quality programs. We want you to feel secure leaving your children in our care. And at the same time, have your children come home smiling, having experienced or learned something new each week.

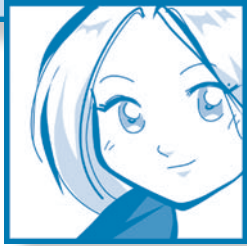
Summer Camps

For those who enjoy science, public speaking or robotics, we offer Mad

Science classes, Debate, and a variety of Computer Programming camps. Does your child enjoy kicking a ball across the soccer field, swinging a golf club, or rallying on the tennis court? We have just about every sport camp they can come up with! How about cooking, acting, or the many martial arts? We have those, too. With 70-plus different summer camps, there is something for just about everyone!

Camps fill quickly. Register early for your first choice. Stop by the Recreation Registration Office at 3350 Capitol Ave., Building B, for a complete listing or call 494-4300. To register, visit RegeRec.com.





Comic Book, Anime Teen Event in Fremont

Crave comic books? Mad about manga? Ape over anime? Goofy for graphic novels? Zealous 'bout 'zines? Love art created by young people? If you or your kids do, then we have the event for you. Attend the annual Comic Arts & Anime Teen Expo (CAAT-X), which will take place **Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at the Teen Center in Central Park, off Sailway Drive.

Artists will share their knowledge and techniques through demonstrations and workshops, costumed fans will swarm, and vendors of all things cool will have character goods, plushies, posters, and comic and manga books for sale. The cost per person is \$9 in advance or \$12 at the door. You may register online at RegeRec.com, or for more information visit www.FremontAnime.com.

City's Energy Conservation Efforts to Pay off, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As part of our green building efforts, the City recently completed several energy conservation projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save on utility bills.

At three locations—City Hall, the Police Building, and the Fremont Family Resource Center—the City replaced old fluorescent lights with newer, more-efficient lights. The City also installed energy efficient window film in several locations. The changes will save the City an estimated \$60,000 per year, and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 174 tons annually. The total cost was about \$200,000, meaning the project will have paid for itself in a little more than three years.

For more information about the City's energy conservation efforts, contact Policy and Special Projects Manager Dan Schoenholz at dschoenholz@fremont.gov, or 494-4438.

Attend FRC Gala to Celebrate 10 Years of Family-Friendly Service

Saturday, May 2

In 1994, colleagues from the nonprofit and public sector came together to “dream” about a model for serving families in the Tri-Cities that would be based on principles of family support: integrated services that are easy to access; culturally competent; and strength based and consumer driven. Five years after the initial planning meeting began, the Family Resource Center opened its doors in June of 1999. Currently housing 27 State,

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Our Community



FRC 10th

From page 7

County, City, and nonprofit organizations, the Family Resource Center is widely recognized as a model for best practice. Visitors come from far and wide to learn about the model with the hope of replicating it in their communities.

In recognition of the success of the FRC's first 10 years—and to raise much needed funding to sustain these services for families—we are hosting a 10th Anniversary Gala, “Changing the World ... One Family at a Time.” Join us on **Saturday, May 2 from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**, at the Fremont Family Resource Center, 39155 Liberty Street.

The gala will be in a spacious enclosed tent adjacent to the FRC and will include a delectable dinner, music, dancing, wine, silent auction, and more! The cost is \$100 per person.

Save Money with Matched Savings Account

Are you trying to save money to start a business, get some job training, go back to school, or buy a house?

You and your family might be eligible to double or triple your savings for these goals through a matched savings account called an individual development account (IDA). For every dollar you save in this program over a six to 24 month period, you will earn either \$1 or \$2 for each dollar saved (type of match depends on funding source).

This program is offered by Associated Community Action Program as part of the Fremont Family Resource Center's Family Economic Success Program. Participants in the IDA program also receive financial literacy classes and participate in an ongoing support group to assist with reaching their savings goals. To participate in this program, you must be working and your income must fall within eligible guidelines. For a family of four, this means that your income must be under \$42,400 for the 2:1 match program, and individuals participating in the 3:1 match program must be below \$66,250.

For more information, or to register for the next IDA orientation, call FRC Family Economic Success Coordinator Carolyn Robertson at 574-2020.

Food Assistance for Families

If you are working or unemployed, you and your family may qualify for food stamps. Food Stamps is a federal nutrition program that exists to ensure that everyone has enough food to eat. In Alameda County, food stamps come in the form of a plastic card called “Golden State Advantage Card” or Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) that is used like a bank card. This card can be used instead of cash to pay for food in most stores.

To qualify for food stamps, you must:

- Meet the gross monthly income limits (\$1,127 for one person, or up to \$2,297 for a family of four).
- Not be receiving Supplemental Security Income. If there are other household members living in the home who do not receive SSI, they may be eligible for food stamps also.
- Have at least one U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident in your household.
- Have less than \$2,000 in the bank or \$3,000 if you are over 60 and/or disabled.

If you are in a time of transition, it is okay to receive food stamps temporarily until you are employed again. For more information, or to apply for food stamps, call 1-800-870-3663 or 574-2000.



Join the Festivities at the Earth Day Fair

Earth Day is right around the corner. Come celebrate at the Earth Day Fair on **Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, at the Teen Center in Central Park, off Sailway Drive. Part of the Earth Day festivities include interactive workshops, kids activities, and a creek cleanup at Central Park. To participate in the creek cleanup, volunteers should meet at the Boat House, located at 40000 Paseo Padre Parkway at 9 a.m.

For more information, visit Fremont.gov/Environment or call the Environmental Services Division hotline at 494-4580.

Annual Fremont Compost Giveaway

Come to Fremont's Compost Giveaway event on **Saturday, March 28 from 8 a.m. to noon**, and receive two free bags of compost (while supplies last). The compost is made with material collected from residents who participate in the yardwaste and food scraps program in Fremont. This is a rain or shine event.

The Compost Giveaway will be held at the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) facility. The entrance to the event will be on Grimmer Boulevard east (toward the hills) of the Fremont Boulevard intersection. Follow the signs, and watch for the traffic controls that will direct you to the loading area. Crews will place the compost into your vehicle.

To receive your two bags of compost, bring your most recent Allied Waste Services garbage bill to prove that you are participating in Fremont's residential collection program. If your neighbor or a family member is unable to attend the event, you may bring their Allied Waste Services bill as well, and pick up their compost.

This event is brought to you by the City of Fremont, in partnership with Allied Waste Services and NUMMI. For more information, contact Allied Waste Services at 657-3500.



Disposing of Unused, Unwanted, and Expired Medications

Fremont's New Drop-off Sites

Please remember that flushing medications down the drain is harmful to our environment. For safe disposal, bring your expired and unused medications to the following locations:

Washington Hospital

Main Lobby
2000 Mowry Ave.
Monday through Sunday,
available 24 hours

Washington Hospital Community Health Resource Library

2500 Mowry Ave.
Monday through Friday,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Washington Township Medical Group at Warms Springs

46690 Mohave Dr.
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Haller's Pharmacy and Medical Supply

37323 Fremont Blvd.
Monday through Friday,
9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fremont Household Hazardous Waste Facility

41149 Boyce Road
Wednesday through Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.

For more information,
call Union Sanitary
District at 477-7621.



Reminder: New Mandatory Recycling of Construction, Demolition Debris Now in Effect



What type of projects are affected?

- All demolition projects that require a Demolition Permit.
- All residential and commercial projects (new and remodel) with a permit valuation of \$300,000 or more.

What are the Requirements?

- Reuse or recycle 100 percent of asphalt and concrete.
- Reuse or recycle 50 percent of all remaining debris.

Applicants must:

1. Complete a Waste Handling Plan prior to receiving a permit.
2. Save copies of every recycling receipt during the project.
3. Turn in a final report and attach the recycling receipts before permit Final Approval.

For more information, contact the Environmental Services Division at 494-4570 or visit Fremont.gov/Construction.

Stormwater Treatment Measures

More than Surface Deep

Residential and commercial developments include a variety of stormwater treatment measures, typically located near parking lots. These systems are designed to:

- Help ensure that common urban pollutants do not reduce water quality in local creeks.
- Reduce the risk of flooding in Fremont.

Swales, usually long grassy strips, and bioretention areas, with a variety of shapes and vegetation types, are common features in Fremont. Your assistance is needed to ensure that stormwater treatment measures continue to perform as intended. Here are ways you can help:

- **Be careful:** Avoid walking through vegetated areas. Although they may look like grassy walkways, swales and bioretention areas collect storm water; walking through them reduces their ability to function properly.
- **Be aware:** Let store managers or owners know if dirt and trash are collecting in their stormwater treatment areas or around their property.
- **Be thoughtful:** Recognize that properties with special stormwater treatment devices are benefiting our community with cleaner stormwater and a cleaner environment.



Grassy swale located in Pacific Commons Shopping Center.



Bay-Friendly Garden Tour

Showcasing Natural Gardening Techniques

This annual free tour features Bay-Friendly Gardens, which foster soil health, conservation of water, and other resources. Join the tour on **Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

In Fremont, Bay Friendly gardeners have the capability to adapt traditional landscapes with drought-tolerant plants better suited to our Mediterranean climate. Come and discover ideas for creating your perfect outdoor haven by taking a tour of Fremont bay friendly gardens.

Registration for the tour is required. Visit BayFriendly.org by April 16 to register for the tour. Registrants will receive a tour guide book with directions to the various gardens and descriptions by mail. Native plants, vegetable starts, and Mediterranean perennials can be purchased at select sites on the tour.

Kids 'n' Kites Festival

Attend this Year's Festival

*Includes 'Sneak Peak'
of New Waterpark*

**Saturday, May 16
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

For information call **494-4300**,
or visit GoAquaAdventure.com
or [Fremont.gov/Recreation/
KidsNKitesFestival](http://Fremont.gov/Recreation/KidsNKitesFestival)

Kids 'n' Kites Festival

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is holding its annual Kids 'n' Kites Festival on **Saturday, May 16 from 11 a.m. to**

4 p.m. The festival, presented by American Swim Academy, is moving locations within Central Park this year and will be held in the area surrounding the Aqua Adventure Waterpark.

The festival is free to the public and will include a "sneak peek" of the Waterpark. The first 2,500 children in attendance will receive a free kite.

Sneak Peak of Aqua Adventure Waterpark

Make your way next door to the festival area and get a look at Fremont's brand new Aqua Adventure Waterpark! Come in and get a good look at the 40 ft. waterslides, lazy river, and kids play areas, or purchase your season pass, food, or something from our retail shop. The waterpark is fully funded through sponsorships, grants, and fees. It's guaranteed to be great fun for the entire family. *The Waterpark will officially open for business on Saturday, May 23.*



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